

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 EURE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01
USIA-06 PRS-01 /060 W
-----251609Z 104122 /53

P R 251554Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1028
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME
USCINCEUR
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
AMCONSUL LYON
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE
AMCONSUL NICE
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 08837

EUR FOR AMBASSADOR RUSH

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, FR
SUBJECT: CHIRAC ELECTED MAYOR OF PARIS

REF: PARIS 8239

SUMMARY. JACQUES CHIRAC WAS ELECTED MAYOR OF PARIS BY
THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ON MARCH 25. HIS PRINCIPAL
ASSISTANTS COME MOSTLY FROM HIS OWN GAULLIST PARTY
(RPR). MANY OBSERVERS BELIEVE THE FORMER PRIME MINIS-
TER'S POST COULD LEAD HIM EVENTUALLY TOWARDS A CLASH
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WITH RAYMOND BARRE AND GISCARD D'ESTAING. END SUMMARY.

1. ON MARCH 25 JACQUES CHIRAC WAS ELECTED THE 10TH
MAYOR IN THE HISTORY OF PARIS (THE LAST BEING IN 1871)
BY A VOTE OF 67 TO 40, WITH 2 BLANK BALLOTS. AS STATED
REFTEL, HIS ELECTION WAS VIRTUALLY A FOREGONE CONCLU-
SION FROM THE MOMENT THE VICTORY OF HIS CANDIDATES IN

THE SECOND ROUND OF MUNICIPAL VOTING WAS CONFIRMED. THE ONLY OTHER CANDIDATE WAS HENRI FISZBIN (PCF); BUT WITH THE PERCENTAGE SO HEAVILY WEIGHED IN FAVOR OF THE MAJORITY, AND WITH ALL BUT TWO GISCARDIAN MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS CASTING THEIR VOTES FOR CHIRAC (WE ASSUME THE DEFECTIONS CAME FROM THAT QUARTER), CHIRAC WAS VOTED IN THE FIRST BALLOT.

2. PRINCIPAL ASSISTANTS -- BOTH GAULLISTS -- WERE ELECTED SHORTLY THEREAFTER: CHRISTIAN DE LA MALENE AS ASSISTANT MAYOR FOR THE BUDGET; JEAN TIBERI, WHO RAN ON CHIRAC'S LIST IN THE THIRD SECTOR AS DEPUTY ASSISTANT MAYOR FOR ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL. OTHER PROMINENT GAULLISTS WHO CAN LOOK FORWARD TO HIGH-RANKING POSTS IN THE TOWN HALL ARE PIERRE BAS, CLAUDE MARCUS AND MAURICE COUVE DE MURVILLE (AS DELEGATE FOR PARIS' FOREIGN RELATIONS). THE ONLY NON-RPR WHO CAN ANTICIPATE AN IMPORTANT JOB IS JACQUELINE NEBOUT, WHO DEFECTED FROM THE RADICAL SOCIALISTS TO CHIRAC'S CAMP IN MID-CAMPAIGN. TIBERI'S POSITION IS UNLIKELY TO RAISE EYEBROWS; BUT DE LA MALENE, WHO HAS RUN THE PARIS BUDGET SINCE 1965 AND WHO IS THE ARCHITECT OF SUCH CONTROVERSIAL PROJECTS AS THE VILLETTE SLAUGHTERHOUSE AND THE RENOVATION OF LES HALLES, WILL BE PARTICULARLY OBJECTIONABLE TO THE LEFT IN PARIS.

3. COMMENT: THE MAJOR QUESTION NOW IS HOW CHIRAC WILL HANDLE HIMSELF. CONTRARY TO PARTY EXPECTATIONS, THE

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RPR HAS BEEN STAGNATING SINCE CHIRAC DECLARED HIS CANDIDACY IN JANUARY. OSTENSIBLY THE POST OF MAYOR OF PARIS WILL BE ALMOST A FULL-TIME JOB, WITH CHIRAC HAVING TO DO EVERYTHING FROM NEGOTIATING WITH STRIKING GARBAGEMEN TO GREETING FOREIGN DIGNITARIES. AS PRESIDENT OF THE RPR AND DEPUTY FROM THE CORREZE (HE MUST RESIGN FROM HIS POST AS PRESIDENT OF THE LIMOUSIN REGIONAL COUNCIL), CHIRAC WILL HAVE A BUSY TIME OF IT IF HE WISHES TO AVOID LAYING HIMSELF OPEN TO CHARGES OF NOT GIVING ENOUGH ATTENTION TO ONE OR ANOTHER OF HIS POSTS. RELATIONS BETWEEN TOWN HALL AND THE ELYSEE WILL PROBABLY BE STRAINED, WITH OCCASIONS FOR DISCORD PRESENTING THEMSELVES EVERY TIME RPR GOALS FOR THE CITY

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DO NOT COINCIDE WITH THOSE OF VGE, WHOSE PENCHANT FOR "MEDDLING" IN MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS IS WELL KNOWN.

4. FURTHERMORE CHIRAC MIGHT WELL DECIDE TO INITIATE JUST ENOUGH GLAMOROUS REFORMS IN THE CAPITAL CITY TO OFFSET CHARGES THAT HE AND HIS RASSEMBLEMENT, WHICH HOLD TWICE AS MANY SEATS AS ANY OTHER SINGLE PARTY ON THE COUNCIL, ARE OVERLY CONSERVATIVE. HE COULD THEN DURING THE LEGISLATIVE ELECTION CAMPAIGN CITE THE WORK DONE IN PARIS IN AN ATTEMPT TO WOO VOTES NATIONALLY FOR THE PARTY. GISCARD, THE SELF-PROCLAIMED REFORMIST, IS IN NO POSITION TO COUNTER HIS FORMER SUBORDINATE SHOULD THE LATTER WISH TO UNDERTAKE EYE-CATCHING REFORMS. THE PREVIOUS NINE MAYORS WERE ALL ELECTED WITH A REVOLUTION OF SOME SORT IN PROCESS. CURRENT EVENTS (THE ASCENSION OF THE UNITED LEFT, THE DIMINISHED STATURE OF THE PRESIDENT, THE BIG QUESTION MARK OVER THE BARRE PLAN) WOULD

LEAD US TO BELIEVE THAT CHIRAC MIGHT PROVE NO
EXCEPTION TO THE RULE.
GAMMON

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